



Traffic Safety
News and Facts for Employers
April 17, 2006

Michigan News You Can Use

Michigan Safety Conference

The Michigan Safety Conference is a volunteer organization dedicated to promoting the improvement of health and safety practices. It provides participants with quality health, safety and environmental education. The 76th annual conference will be held April 18 and 19, 2006 in downtown Lansing, MI. at the Lansing Center.

Over 250 booth spaces with exhibitors showing products and services related to: Industrial Hygiene, Insurance, Fire Safety, Protective Apparel, Safety Glasses, Ear Protection, Safety Shoes, Noise Control, Consulting, Safety Training Programs, Fall Protection, Hazardous Materials, Gas Detection Ergonomics, and much more. Please refer to the attached link for additional details and training breakout sessions that will be offered:

<http://www.michsafetyconference.org/2006%20MSC%20Divisional%20Programming.pdf>

Latest Traffic Safety News

UPS CEO Issues Warning About America's Roadways

Addressing the Houston Forum in Texas recently, UPS chief executive officer described the nation's roads, ports, railroads and airports as the backbone of global trade and issued a warning that America was neglecting its infrastructure. "What's shocking, quite frankly, is the inability of our transportation infrastructure to keep up with the normal day-to-day stresses imposed upon it," said UPS CEO Mike Eskew. He called on business leaders to help Americans understand that their jobs and standard of living depend on a U.S. economy that today depends on global trade. Read the full article at http://www.truckinginfo.com/news/news-detail.asp?news_id=56428&news_category_id=19

Safety Technology Takes Front Seat At World Congress

Auto engineers will showcase the latest in protective technology and provide a glimpse of the newest safety advances at the Society of Automotive Engineers' 2006 World Congress. Automotive safety advances include: smarter air bags that inflate according to an occupant's size and position to maximize protection, new technology to prevent injuries in the event of a rollover, and cars that can talk to one another and vehicles that can detect crashes and warn drivers in advance. Read the full article at <http://www.detnews.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060402/AUTO01/604020384/1148>

Study Examines Increasing Speed Limits On High-Speed Roadways

The Transportation Research Board recently released its National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) Web-Only Document 90: Safety Impacts and Other Implications of Raised Speed Limits on High-Speed Roads. It examines how safety, economic, environmental and commercial conditions on high-speed roadways may be impacted by a change in the speed limit. View the document at http://www.trb.org/publications/nchrp/nchrp_w90.pdf



Massachusetts Considers EDR Legislation

Massachusetts state lawmakers are considering legislation that would make it harder for the information recorded by event data recorders (EDRs) to be used against drivers of passenger vehicles. In its final stages, lawmakers are discussing a bill that would require the disclosure of the presence of EDRs or "black boxes" in the owner's manual for vehicles. Current Massachusetts's law doesn't require vehicle owners to be notified that vehicles are sold with EDRs.

New AAA Study Calculates Average Cost Of Owning A Car

The overall average cost of owning and operating a passenger vehicle is 52.2 cents per mile, which equals \$7,834 per year based on 15,000 miles of driving, according to AAA's 2006 version of its "Your Driving Costs" study. AAA calculates the average costs of all expenses associated with owning and operating vehicles over five years and 75,000 miles of driving. To better reflect the costs associated with a wider range of vehicle choices, this year's study calculated the costs based on averages for five top-selling passenger cars in each of three vehicle size categories.

Trucking Company Aims To Improve Drivers' Health

While exercising, eating more vegetables and getting regular checkups may not be priorities for some truck drivers, one trucking company reduced drivers' health risks and saved \$8 million in one year through a customized disease management program. Read the full article at <http://www.ttnews.com/lmt/Apr06/health.asp>

Study Finds Cell Use One Of Many Distractions

In a recent study, UMTRI found that cell phone use was one of many distractions. The researchers studied the effects of all types of secondary behaviors on driving performance, and found more than a third of drivers engage in secondary tasks while driving. Conversation with passengers was the most common at 15 percent, followed by grooming at 6.5 percent, cell phone use at 5 percent, and finally, eating and drinking at 2 percent.

Adaptive Cruise Control Gets Upgrade

An adaptive cruise control system that can see through fog to alert drivers when there's a vehicle ahead will be fitted to mid-range cars within two years. Its electronic 'eye' has a range of 250 meters, and it can even help slow the car down to ensure a safety stopping distance. Read the full article at http://www.autoexpress.co.uk/news/66533/incar_eye_spys_a_hit_in_mist.html

New Device To Detect Drowsy Driving

A new fatigue-warning device could help truckers avoid crashes. The device tracks how often drivers blink and how long their eyes stay shut. The device is about the size and shape of a web cam. It is mounted on the dashboard, draws power from the truck's cigarette lighter and uses infrared technology to monitor blinking. The more a driver blinks and the longer the driver's eyes are closed, the more the device beeps—indicating it's time to pull over. Read the full article at <http://www.theledger.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060412/BUSINESS/604120361/1178>

Work-Life:

NSF Releases 2006 Sleep in America Poll Results

The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) recently released the results of its 2006 Sleep in America poll on sleep and teens. The poll found that teens aren't getting the sleep they need and the resulting sleep deprivation is impacting their performance in all areas of life—including behind the wheel. For more



information visit

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2006/03/28/earlyshow/living/parenting/main1444540.shtml>

Kansas Launches Underage Drinking Tip Line

To continue raising awareness of the serious issue of underage drinking in Kansas, the Kansas Department of Transportation has launched a statewide underage drinking tip line, 1-866-MustB21. The toll-free tip line operates 24-hours a day, seven days a week, and allows citizens to anonymously report parties involving underage drinking, plans to purchase alcohol for underage persons and willingness of retailers to sell alcohol to underage persons. For more information visit <http://www.leavenworthtimes.com/articles/2006/04/13/news/news04.txt>

New U.K. Website to Cut Number of Crashes Among Novice Drivers and Motorcycles

The UK's Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents created a new website to cut the number of crashes among the United Kingdom's novice drivers and motorcyclists. Among other things, the site encourages parents to ensure that their children gain as much supervised driving or riding experience as possible during their learning period. For more information, visit <http://www.helpingldrivers.com/>

International Traffic Safety News:

'Sleep Contracts' Introduced As A Means To Control Fatigue

The U.K. Energy Institute released a report examining how "sleep contracts" can be an addition to hours of work controls to help manage fatigue risk. Sleep contracts are a negotiated procedure for managing day-to-day fatigue risk. The study outlines the benefits of a sleep contract, preliminary ideas on how contracts may be negotiated between management and the workforce, and reviews potential benefits of sleep contracts. For more information, visit <http://www.energyinst.org.uk/index.cfm?PageID=1025>

Fleet Drivers The Target Of A New Safety Campaign

Fleet directors in Scotland are the target of a hard-hitting campaign to tackle speeding among fleet drivers. The campaign comes after research revealed that speed cameras catch 100 company vehicles speeding a day in one Scottish region alone. The campaign includes a director's pack that discusses the financial impact on reducing speeding—as well as the effort to save lives. It warns, "With so much to lose, nobody has business speeding." It also includes case studies on the effect it can have on company bosses and their drivers when caught.

Japan Begins Five-Year Plan To Address Roadway Fatalities

The Japanese government has released a five-year plan with the goal of reducing traffic fatalities by 20 percent. There were 6,871 deaths on the nation's highway in 2005, which means the 20 percent reduction would be equivalent to just under 5,500 deaths. The plan was scheduled to begin this month.

Investigation Finds Many Fleet Vehicles Would Fail Safety Inspection

More than half of all fleet cars in the UK could be on the road illegally due to dangerous faults that would fail an inspection, according to RAC. The state of many company cars was discovered during a four-month investigation by the firm involving more than 3,000 vehicles. During the inspection, 53 percent of vehicles failed basic checks on tire wear, coolant, and oil levels— despite the cars having an average age of no older than two-and-a-half years.